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# Pastora Vows to Keep Fighting Sandinistas Even Without U.S. Aid

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CARACAS, Venezuela, June 13 — Edén Pastora Gómez, the Nicaraguan rebel leader who was wounded in an assassination attempt two weeks ago, says he will continue his fight against the Sandinista Government even if the United States withholds support for his efforts.

In an interview Tuesday night in a private clinic here, Mr. Pastora said his forces had received no help from the United States for the last 10 weeks in what he viewed as pressure to force him into an alliance with Honduras-based rebel groups backed by the Central Intelligence Agency.

But he reiterated his refusal to deal with the Nicaraguan Democratic Front, until it is "purged" of all figures linked to the ousted dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza Debayle. Instead, Mr. Pastora said he planned to seek new support in Latin America for what he described as his "democratic revolutionary alternative."

"Our achievement is to have gone as far as we have without losing our independence," the 47-year-old rebel said. "For many, to be independent is worse than to be a Communist. When the word was put out that I was the only obstacle to unity of the Nicaraguan opposition, I realized I was condemned."

## Uncertain Who Planted Bomb

But Mr. Pastora said he had still not decided who he believed was responsible for the bomb that exploded at a news conference just inside southern Nicaragua May 30, killing 10 people, including two journalists. "I can think of sound reasons why both the left and the right might have done it," he said. "As Marx said, the extremes unite."

After the bombing, Mr. Pastora was first treated in San José, Costa Rica, and soon afterward was flown here through the personal intervention of a former Venezuelan President, Carlos Andrés Pérez. Mr. Pastora is now convalescing from burns on 40 percent of his body and severe shrapnel wounds in his left leg.

Lying in a tiny room in the Policlínica Metropolitana, protected by three armed Venezuelan soldiers and accompanied by close aides, Mr. Pastora, who was known as Commander Zero during the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution and who later broke with the Sandinista leadership, spoke of his options.

"The first thing I have to do is to return to the mountains," he said. "Even if the following day I must leave to seek aid, I have to return for political reasons."

## Reopening of Supply Lines Needed

Mr. Pastora also said supply lines to his forces in southern Nicaragua must be reopened urgently, because "economically we're in a terrible situation." Adding that "I have no allies in Washington," he said he hoped to obtain support from social democratic sectors in Latin America that, he said, "now realize they have been deceived by the Sandinista directorate."

He said that until now the military advances and withdrawals of his Sandino Revolutionary Front had been regulated by the flow of supplies — of ammunition, boots, uniforms and medicines — provided by the United States.

"We would grow for two or three months and then stop," he said. "That's where we are now. We have 3,000 men on the San Juan River awaiting supplies. Every few months we have the same cycle. The aid is sporadic." The San Juan River marks part of the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Mr. Pastora said he never personally negotiated arms shipments or discussed political developments with envoys from the United States, but would be informed by groups within the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance — to which his front belongs — when a planeload of supplies would be arriving.

"We never accepted aid with conditions attached and no one ever dared tell me that continued support was linked to an alliance with the F.D.N.," he continued, using the initials in Spanish of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front. "But the C.I.A. message was clear. Costa Rican police raided our communications base in San José and supplies were cut off to coincide with

## Invitations to talk in Honduras."

Later, Mr. Pastora said that his principal political ally, Alfonso Robelo Callejas, a former Nicaraguan junta member who heads the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, made "a 180-degree turnabout" and started talks with the Nicaraguan Democratic Front. "Within the alliance, some people began arguing that the F.D.N. had been cleaned up, but that's not true," he said. "It remains essentially Somocista."

He said that neither the United States nor the Nicaraguan Democratic Front had responded so far to any of his demands, but he expressed the belief that "democratic options" were being opened up inside Nicaragua itself by "the deep schisms within the Sandinista leadership."

Mr. Pastora argued that only his Social Democratic Movement, which he asserts has 8,000 men in arms, offered the possibility of "democratizing" both the Sandinista revolution and the Honduras-based opposition and preventing still greater polarization.

"The worst problem of Nicaragua is not Communism but rather that there are currents in the United States that want to fight their war in Nicaragua," he added. "If they'd leave us alone to fight our war, Communism would stop being a problem."